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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12679 111431Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 EUR-08 SP-02 PA-01
INR-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
/044 W
----------070584 111440Z /47 S
O 111415Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9005
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12679

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E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, PLO, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: UNIFIL: ASSAULTS ON U.N. FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 117862, (B) USUN 1906

1. MET WITH FONMIN KAMEL TODAY TO URGE THAT GOE USE SUCH
INFLUENCE AS IT HAS WITH PALESTINIANS TO DESIST FROM

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ATTACKING UNIFIL AND COOPERATE WITH IT. I STRESSED IT
ESSENTIAL THAT UNSC RESOLUTIONS RE SOUTH LEBANON ARE
RESPECTED AND THAT UNIFIL MANDATE NOT BE CHAL-
LENGED. CLEARLY, ANY CONTINUING CHALLENGES ARE LIKELY
TO CAUSE ISRAELIS TO DELAY WITHDRAWAL. AS KAMEL KNEW,
WE HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD ON URGING ISRAELIS TO WITH-
DRAW WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY OTHER CONDITIONS.

2. KAMEL SAID GOE KNOWS AND APPRECIATES OUR EFFORTS TO
OBTAIN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. HE READILY AGREED THAT
PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS' ATTACKS ON UNIFIL
WILL ONLY MAKE ISRAELIS MORE RELUCTANT TO DO SO. HE
SAID GOE WILL TALK TO FATAH LEADERS WHO ARE HERE AND
URGE THAT PLO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL. ACCORDING TO HIS
UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, THOSE ELEMENTS THAT HAVE ATTACKED
UNIFIL UNITS ARE NOT UNDER ARAFAT'S CONTROL. GOE, HE
SADLY ADMITTED, HAS NO CONTACT WITH THEM.

3. KAMEL TOOK THE OCCASION TO MAKE STRONG PITCH THAT USG
UNDERTAKE DIALOGUE WITH MODERATE PLO LEADERSHIP IN ORDER
TO SUPPORT IT IN CONTROVERSY WITH RADICAL PALESTINIAN
ELEMENTS. THIS DIALOGUE COULD BE BEGUN SECRETLY OR ANY
OTHER WAY. SUCH ACTION ON OUR PART, HE CONTENDED, WOULD
DO MORE TO OBTAIN ARAFAT'S SUPPORT THAN ANYTHING
GOE OR MOST ARAB GOVTS SAY. I POINTED OUT OUR PROBLEM
IN UNDERTAKING DIALOGUE WITH PLO SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT
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RECOGNIZE U.N. RESOLUTION 242 AND THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL
TO EXIST. I RECALLED OUR EFFORTS OF LAST FALL TO WORK
OUT A SATISFACTORY FORMULA WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED US
TO UNDERTAKE A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO. GOE HAD PLAYED
PROMINENT PART IN THAT EFFORT. UNFORTUNATELY, PLO REJECTED
OPPORTUNITY. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO
ENGAGE IN A DIALOGUE.

4. KAMEL STILL CONTENDED SOME WAY SHOULD BE FOUND FOR U.S.
TO DEAL WITH PLO. HE RECALLED WE HAD DONE SO WHEN
AMERICANS WERE EVACUATED FROM BEIRUT. I REMINDED HIM
THAT THIS HAD ONLY BEEN AT SECURITY LEVEL. HIS SOLE
RESPONSE WAS USG SHOULD ENDEAVOR FIND SOME WAY TO SUPPORT
MODERATE PLO ELEMENTS. HE DID REITERATE GOE'S WILLINGNESS
TALK TO FATAH REPS ABOUT RESPECTING UNSC RESOLUTIONS ON
SOUTH LEBANON, FOR WHATEVER THIS MAY BE WORTH. EILTS

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